

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 256691

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS:ILO, AORG

SUBJECT: ILO - PARKING FEES FOR NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

1. MISSION SHOULD NOTIFY ILO THAT USG HAS REVIEWED THE PARKING FEE QUESTION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OFFICE'S CON-
TENTION THAT ILO'S SITUATION DIFFERS FROM THAT OF OTHER GENEVA-BASED AGENCIES IN THAT THE ILO IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE FREE PARKING, BUT DOES NOT FIND THIS ARGUMENT CONVINCING AND STILL CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT A FEE SHOULD BE CHARGED ILO EMPLOYEES FOR PARKING IN THE GARAGE OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

2. OUR POSITION IS BASED ON FOLLOWING:

A. WHILE CUSTOM OF CHARGING EMPLOYEES FEES FOR PARKING IN GARAGES OF BUILDINGS IN WHICH THEY WORK MAY NOT BE UNI-
VERSAL, IT IS A GROWING TREND, AND IS THE NORM AMONG THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 256691

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA. TO EXEMPT THE

ILO EMPLOYEES FROM A PARKING FEE WOULD SET OFF A LONG CHAIN OF REACTIONS AMONG EMPLOYEES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, WHO WOULD CLAIM THAT THEY WERE BEING UNFAIRLY TREATED.

B. CONTENTION THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE FREE PARKING IS DEBATABLE. THERE IS FREE PARKING ON THE STREETS IN THE AREA OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, ALTHOUGH IT IS ADMITTEDLY AT A GREATER DISTANCE FROM THE BUILDING THAN THE PARKING

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AREA AT THE OLD BUILDING. THUS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS ALTERNATIVE FREE PARKING IS A MATTER OF WHO DEFINES THE ASPECT OF REASONABLE CONVENIENCE. IN MOST URBAN CENTERS OF THE WORLD, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES TO SPEND 45 TO 60 MINUTES EACH WAY BETWEEN THEIR HOMES AND THEIR OFFICES.

C. WHILE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MAY NOT BE AS CONVENIENT, AT THIS TIME, TO THE NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AS IT IS TO THE OLD, THE SERVICE WILL BE IMPROVED. ALTHOUGH IN SOME EXTREME CASES, EVEN IMPROVED SERVICE MIGHT RESULT IN TRAVEL TIME WHICH, IN THE GENEVA CONTEXT, WOULD BE UNREASONABLE, PUBLIC TRANSPORT WOULD BE A REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR AT LEAST PART OF THE ILO EMPLOYEES.

D. ALTHOUGH THE US OPPOSED THE MOVE, THE GOVERNING BODY AGREED TO CHANNEL ALL BUILDING RENTALS INTO THE BUILDING AND ACCOMMODATION FUND, FOR USE IN MAINTAINING AND SERVICING THE BUILDING. WE WOULD THINK THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WOULD WELCOME THIS SOURCE OF REVENUE, WHICH WOULD CONTINUE AND PERHAPS INCREASE EVEN THOUGH THE ILO'S OWN EXPANSION OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS MIGHT TAKE UP INCREASING AMOUNTS OF OFFICE SPACE, THUS REDUCING THE INCOME FROM OFFICE RENTAL IN THE NEW BUILDING.

E. AS THE US EMPLOYER REP AT THE 194TH GOVERNING BODY SESSION POINTED OUT, THE ADDITIONAL PARCEL OF LAND ADJOINING THE NEW BUILDING SITE AND WHICH IS ABOUT TO BE ACQUIRED, COULD BE USED IN PART TO PROVIDE OPEN AIR PARKING WHICH COULD BE OFFERED AS A NON-FEE ALTERNATIVE

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PAGE 03 STATE 256691

TO THE UNDER-COVER PARKING. SHOULD OFFICE REPLY THAT THIS WOULD VIOLATE THE ESTHETIC DECISION THAT WAS MADE THAT ALL OF THE GROUNDS OF THE NEW SITE SHOULD BE LANDSCAPED, WITH NO AUTOMOBILES VISIBLE, YOU MAY POINT OUT THAT AN OPEN AIR PARKING AREA COULD BE SCREENED WITH TREES, AS IS BEING DONE WITH THE WHO'S OPEN AIR PARKING AREA DIRECTLY ADJOINING THE ILO SITE. (THESE ARE THE CARS THAT ARE VISIBLE ON THE SLICK-PAPER BROCHURE THAT WAS

DISTRIBUTED FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE NEW
BUILDING.)

3. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU DISCUSS THIS WITH VON STEDINGK,
DENBY, OR FORTIN RATHER THAN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL INGERSOLL

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